

Laytonsville Launch and Control Nike Site (MD-224 & 225)
Montgomery County, Maryland
(W-93)

Site Location

The Laytonsville Nike site, also identified as the Olney Nike Site, is located near Olney, Montgomery County, Maryland. The site consists of a 15-acre former launch area on Riggs Road and a 9-acre former control area on Zion Road.

The former launch area is bordered by farmland and residential areas. According to the latest information in the files, the property includes former barracks, three missile magazines and associated launch pads, and structures currently used by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The former control area is bordered by rural residential areas, woods and the Rachel Carson Regional Park to the north. According to the latest information in the files, this property is owned and operated as a school by the American Foundation for Autistic Children.

Site History

From 1953 until 1962, the property was used by the Army as a Nike air defense missile site. Nike missile batteries were active in the United States during that time frame as part of a defense system designed to defend against foreign bomber and missile penetrations.

This site was deactivated in the 1962. At that time, FEMA began operations at the former launch site.

Environmental Investigations

In 1985, a final Confirmation Study for the former launch area was completed. Four monitoring wells were installed and sampled along with the former on-site production well. There was no evidence of contamination to the groundwater from organic compounds revealed in this investigation. Samples collected from standing water in the former missile magazines revealed petroleum hydrocarbons (8.2 to 1400 mg/l) and lead (68 to 103 µg/l).

In 1995, a draft Site Inspection (SI) report for the former launch area was published. This report summarized the results of additional investigations at the site, which included the installation and sampling of four new monitoring wells along with the four existing wells. This investigation revealed tetrachloroethene (PCE) at 50 µg/l in one groundwater sample along with petroleum hydrocarbons (34-47 mg/kg) and bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (1.3 mg/kg) in soil samples.

Subsequent to the SI, additional groundwater sampling was conducted. A final Monitoring Well Sampling report was completed in September 1996. PCE was detected at 9.3 µg/l in a sample collected from the same monitoring well that revealed PCE in the SI.

Current Status

No information available.

Future Activity

No information available.

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